

REMARKS

1. Claim 1-12 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. (Claims 17-20 were previously cancelled by Amendment). Claims 1-6 and 10 and 12 were previously allowed, but claims 10 and 12 have been amended to depend upon Claim 7. Claim 11 is dependent upon Claim 21. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant requests allowance of the application.

2. Examiner's Interview. Applicant is grateful for the helpfulness and courtesy shown in an Examiner's Interview on September 21, 2007. Applicant has amended Claims 7-9 and 21 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

3. Statement of Steven Buday. A declaration by Steven Buday under 37 CFR §1.132 is attached with this Response. The declaration highlights several of the advantages of the claimed invention over known technology, including the advantages of sequential flow and separation of filtration media.

4. Claim Rejection under §102b. Claim 9 stands rejected over Gershon et al (U.S. Patent 5,427,683). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from Claim 7. Claim 7 now recites that each

chamber is separated from the other chambers by at least one valve and that the flow of wastewater is sequential from the first chamber to the second chamber. Inherently, valves can be closed. In Gerson et al, the mesh screens or retainer means 542 inherently cannot be closed, so they cannot function as Applicant's valves. As noted in the declaration of Steven Buday, isolating media with different adsorption properties with sequential flow is highly advantageous in that it results in greater removal of impurities and less use of media. Claim 9 is dependent from Claim 7 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 7. Applicant therefore requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

5. Claim Rejections under §103a. Claims 7-8 stand rejected over Gershon et al in view of Berardi (U.S. Patent 3,384,240). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As noted above, independent Claim 7 has been amended to recite that each chamber is separated from the other chambers by at least one valve and that the flow of wastewater is sequential from the first chamber to the second chamber. This combination of features is not taught or suggested in Gershon et al, and nothing in Berardi cures the deficiencies of Gershon et al. Berardi merely shows a single chamber. Claim 8 is dependent from Claim 7 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 7. Applicant therefore requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

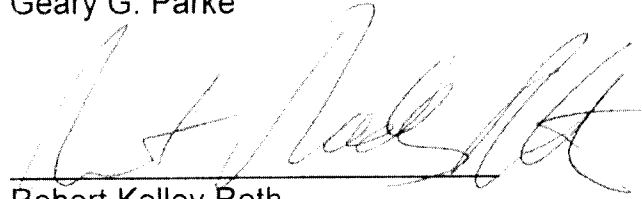
6. Claim 21 stands rejected over Gershon et al in view of Lewis (U.S. Patent 1,678,676). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the media in the first chamber is different than the media in the second chamber. This element, coupled with the language reciting the flow of wastewater from the inlet to the metals trap, clearly distinguishes Claim 21 over the cited references. Gershon et al shows media in only one chamber, as there is nothing but a porous retainer means between layers of media. Even allowing, for the sake of argument, that Gershon et al shows more than one "chamber", each "chamber" contains the same media. Lewis fails to cure the deficiencies of Gershon et al as it only shows one media. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and the claim be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and allowance of the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kelley Roth', written over a horizontal line.

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